

obviated and the rejection should be withdrawn. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute the canceled subject matter in later, to-be-filed applications.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner provisionally rejected claims 93-100, 108, and 111-112 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by copending Application No. 08/196,362 (SEQ ID NO: 7788 and 7775), 08/346,731 (SEQ ID NO: 552), 08/420,856 (SEQ ID NO: 552), 08/221,623 (SEQ ID NO: 114), and 08/276,163 (SEQ ID NO: 15161).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Nonetheless, solely in the interest of facilitating prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 93 to 100, 113, and 114, and amended claim 108 to remove the offending language. Accordingly, the basis of this rejection under the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) has been overcome or obviated and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute the canceled subject matter in later, to-be-filed applications.


Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants believe they have fully addressed the Examiner's concerns and that this application is now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is urged. A request is made to the Examiner to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below if any further action by Applicants would expedite allowance of this application.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 08-3425. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12/22/99


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Enclosures
MW/CCB/ur/lcc